DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS COUNCIL

RICK PERRY
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W. NIM KIDD
Council Chairperson

May 7, 2014

TO: The Honorable Rick Perry, Governor, State of Texas
The Honorable David Dewhurst, Lieutenant Governor, State of Texas
Mr. John Steen, Secretary of State, State of Texas
The Honorable Leticia R. Van de Putte, President Pro-Tempore of the Senate, State of Texas
The Honorable Joe Straus, Speaker of the House, State of Texas
The Honorable Tommy Williams, Chairman, Senate Finance Committee, State of Texas
The Honorable Troy Fraser, Chairman, Senate Natural Resources Committee, State of Texas
The Honorable Craig Estes, Chairman, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Rural Affairs & Homeland Security, State of Texas
The Honorable Joseph Pickett, Chairman, House Committee on Homeland Security & Public Safety, State of Texas
The Honorable Jim Pitts, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee, State of Texas
The Honorable Allan Ritter, Chairman, House Natural Resources Committee, State of Texas
The Honorable Tracy O. King, Chairman, House Agriculture & Livestock Committee, State of Texas
The Honorable Abel Herrero, Chairman, House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee, State of Texas
Mr. Jeff Boyd, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
Mr. Steven McCraw, Director, Texas Department of Public Safety

FROM: Assistant Director Nim Kidd, Texas Division of Emergency Management

SUBJECT: Statewide Drought Situation Report

Nim Kidd, Chairman
Texas Division of Emergency Mgmt

Sam Hermitte, Member
Texas Water Development Board

Steven Bednarz, Member
State Soil & Water Conservation Board

Lance Williams, Member
Texas Department of Agriculture

Dr. Travis Miller, Member
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

David Bradsby, Member
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Gilbert Jordan, Member
Texas Department of Transportation

David A. Van Dresar, Member
Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts

Priscilla Boston, Member
Texas Department of State Health Services

Chris Loft, Member
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Mark Ellison, Member
Office of the Governor
Economic Development & Tourism

Dr. John W. Nielsen-Gammon, Member
Office of the State Climatologist

Marisa Callan, Member
Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs

Michael Dunivan, Member
Texas A&M Forest Service

Regina Erales, Member
Public Utility Commission of Texas

Oscar Fogle, Member

Kent Saathoff, Member
Electric Reliability Council of Texas

William Masterson, Member

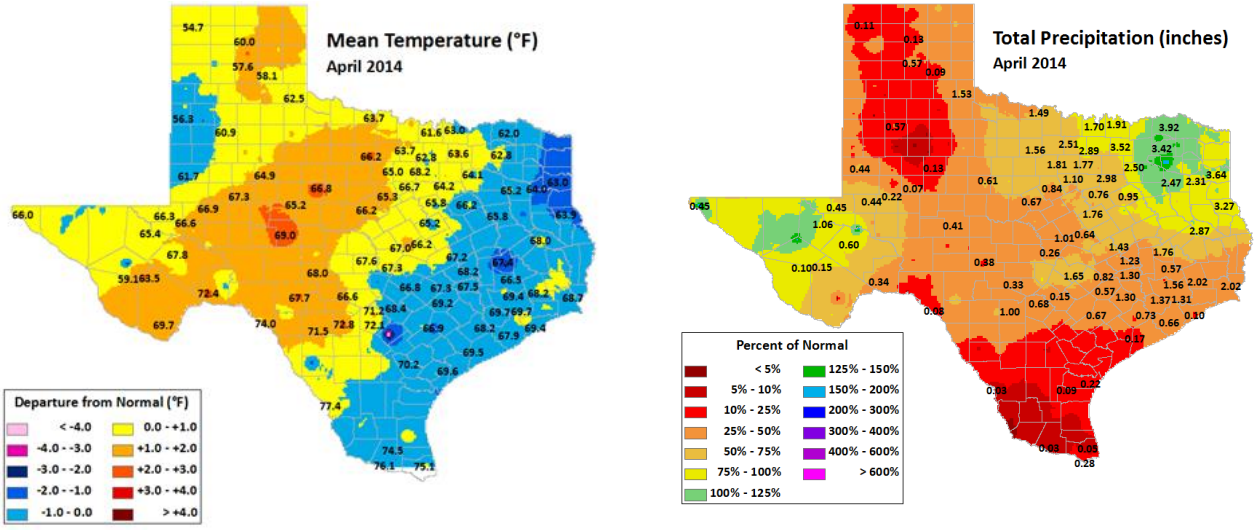
Thomas M. Martine, Member

1. Next Council Meeting

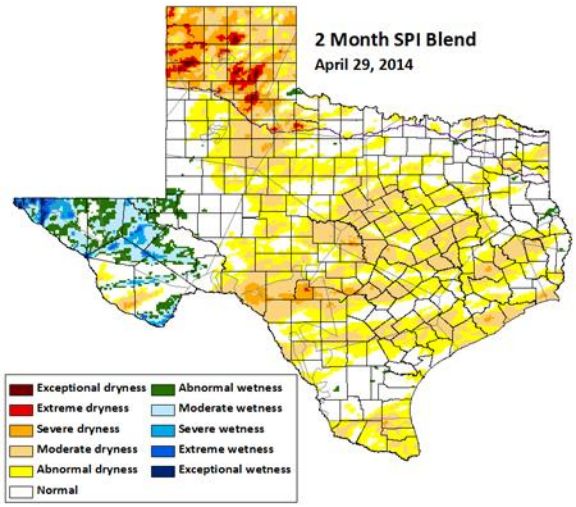
June 12, 2014 at 2:00pm

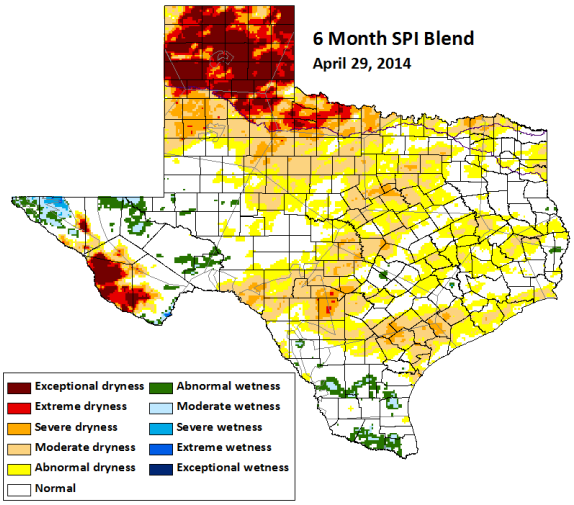
2. General Conditions

The month of April ended closer to normal than March in terms of average temperature, with much of the eastern and southern portions of the state below average and the High Plains and central Texas above average. For precipitation, however, accumulations were still well-below normal, with only the far northeast and western corners of the state coming in near or above normal. The rest of the state, notably the High Plains and Southern Texas, came in below normal. With April and May being the wettest month for many portions of Texas, the lack of rainfall both having occurred and appearing on the horizon raises serious concerns for the hydrological state of Texas for the coming summer.

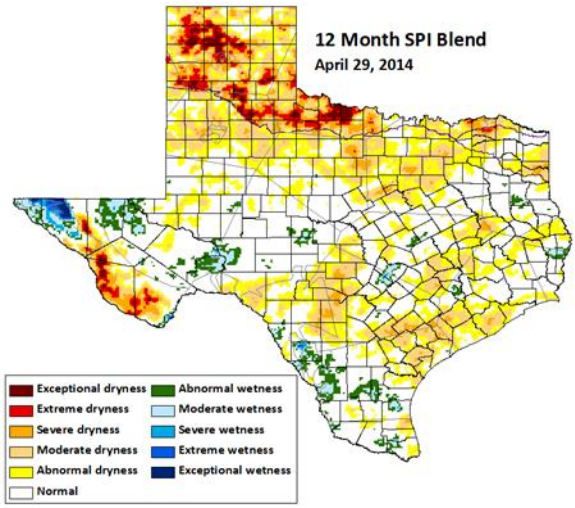


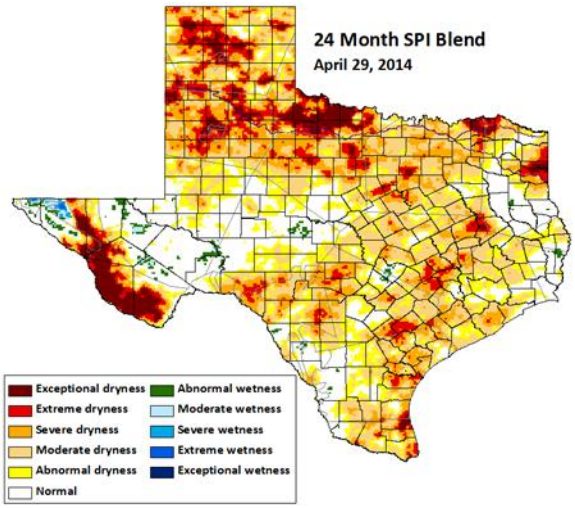
The warming temperatures and near complete lack of appreciable rainfall means that every climate division in the state saw degrading conditions at the ground over the course of the month. Notably bad was the Panhandle, which yet again is seeing rapid deterioration of biological and hydrological health. The entire region is considered D4 now, due to a combination of several days of high temperatures, low humidity, and high winds as a result of several frontal passages throughout the month. A mid-month hard freeze on top of all that helped damage an already weak winter wheat crop, weakening further the current harvest and makes the upcoming cotton planting season perilous. By the end of the month, CD1 and CD2 had completed their driest 44 month period on record by several inches each.





For the rest of the state, the picture isn't much better. The time period of the worst drought is at 4 months currently, so the 2 and 6 month scales are actually somewhat optimistic in their depictions, which is made worse by a slight positive radar bias in the western half of the state. Surface and subsurface soil moisture are suffering, notably in west central Texas. Surface evaporation was a major concern in Southern Texas, which saw several days of high temperatures and low humidity, quickly reducing the short-term gains this region saw in the precious months. Statewide, streamflows are all down, with roughly half the state worse than the 10th percentile and several others still setting records for low river discharge. Reservoirs have held through the month, but the increasing heat and demand on water as the summer months approach could lead to a downward trend in reservoir levels, especially in urban areas like the Metroplex, which is seeing some of its lowest reservoir levels since records began in 1990.

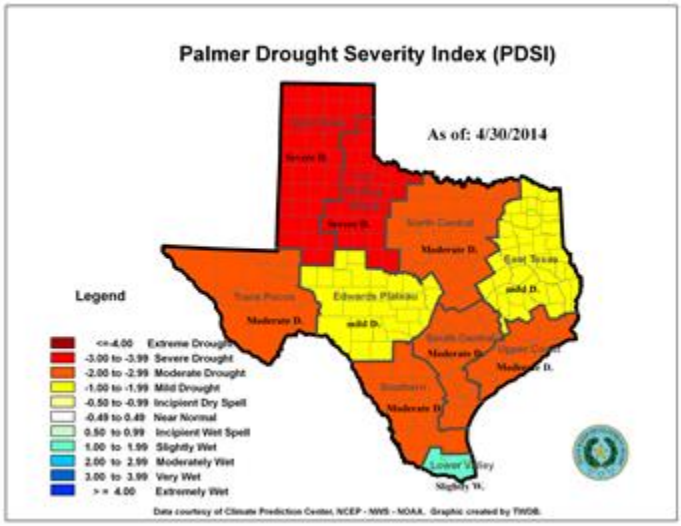


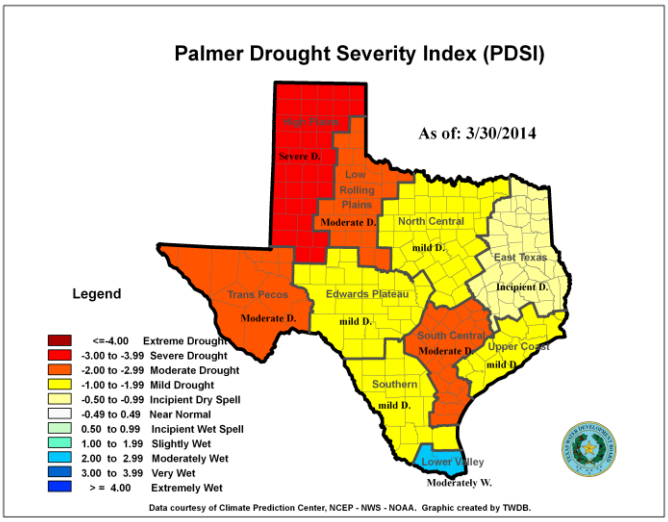


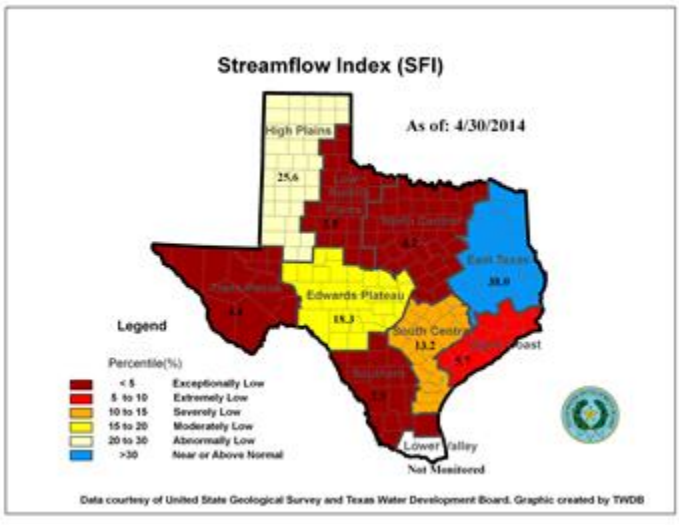
The outlook for the coming month is somewhat pessimistic. For temperatures, there is a greater chance that the majority of the state will be warmer than normal, with some regions well warmer than normal. For precipitation, the monthly outlook shows no trend, though the short outlook—8 to 10 days—is dry, so any relief that would come would be later rather than sooner. Various ENSO indicators are trending positively, however, so the likelihood of a El Nino developing within the next 6 months is greater than not, so some relief is possibly in store, but further down the line.

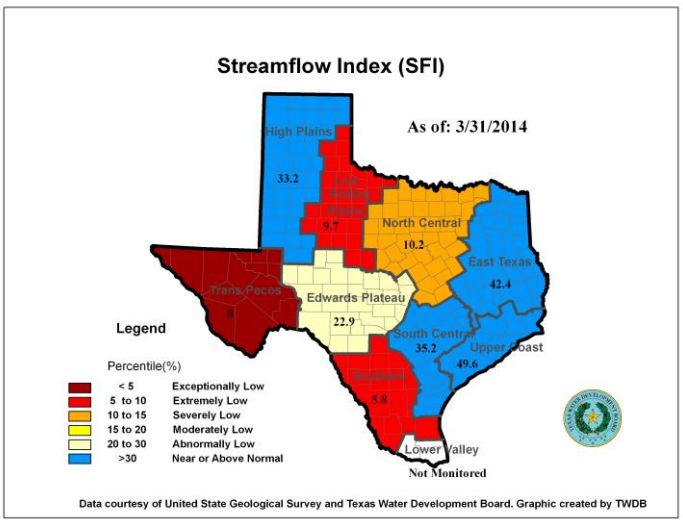
3. Statewide Drought Conditions Update

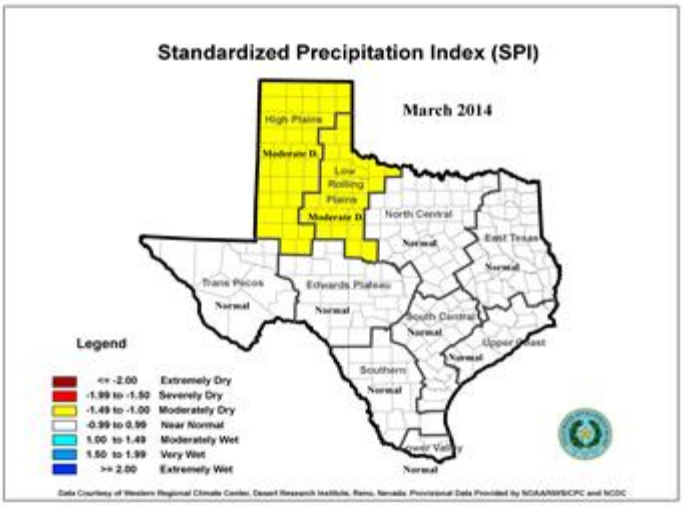
Selected Drought Index Maps











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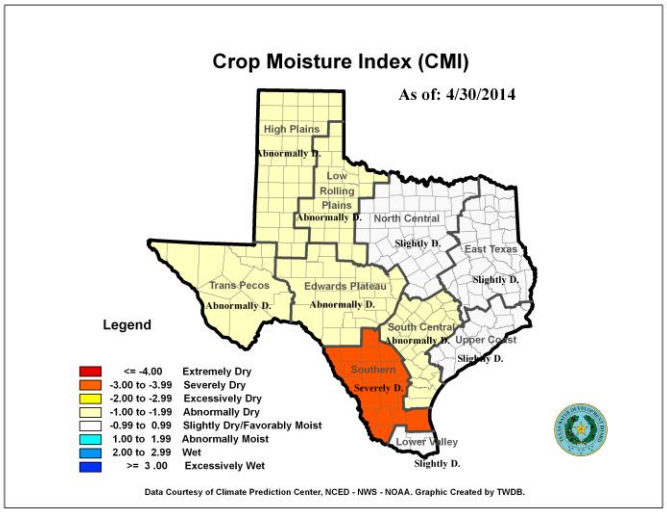
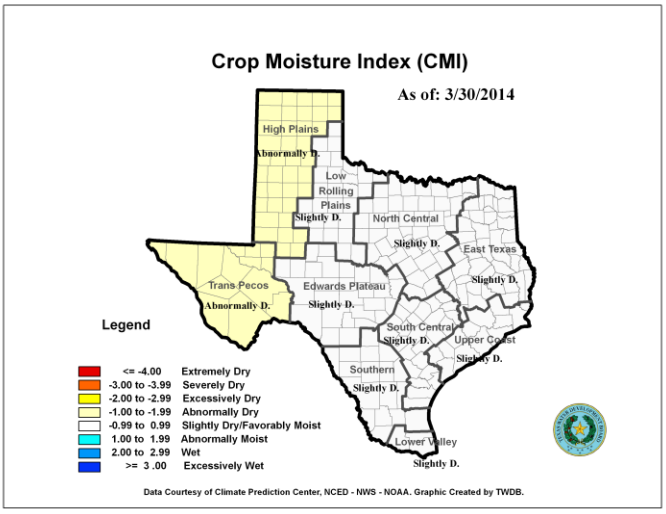
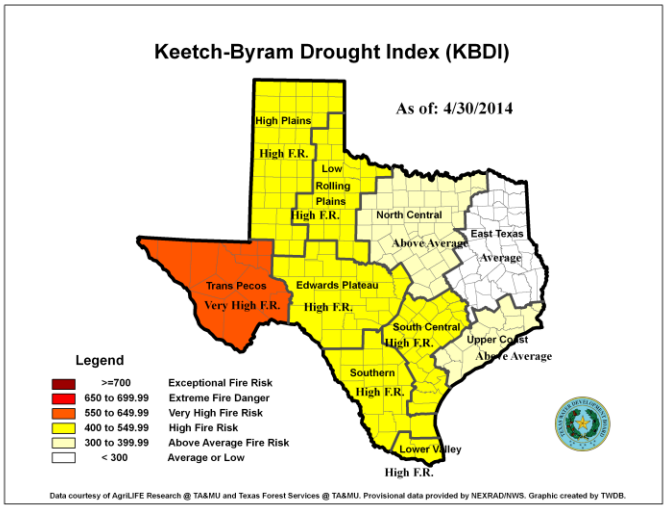
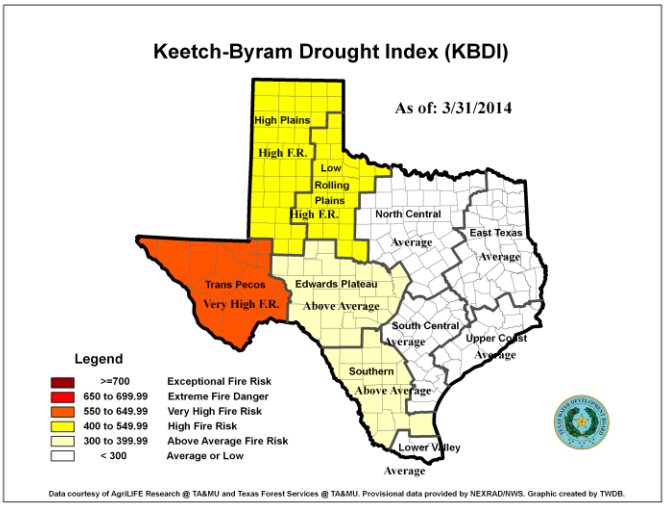
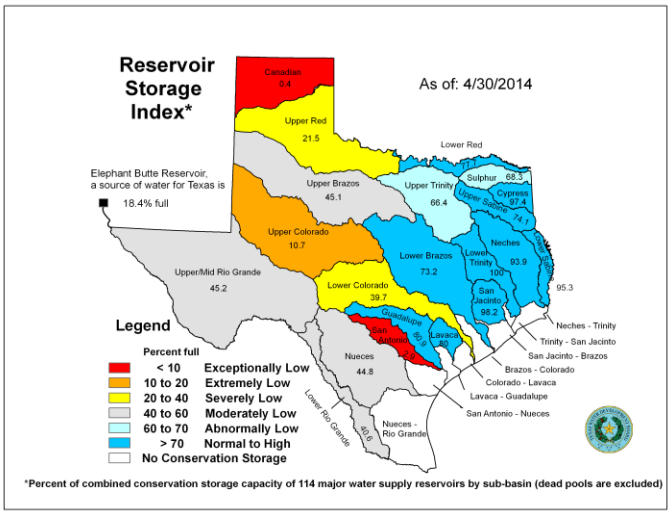
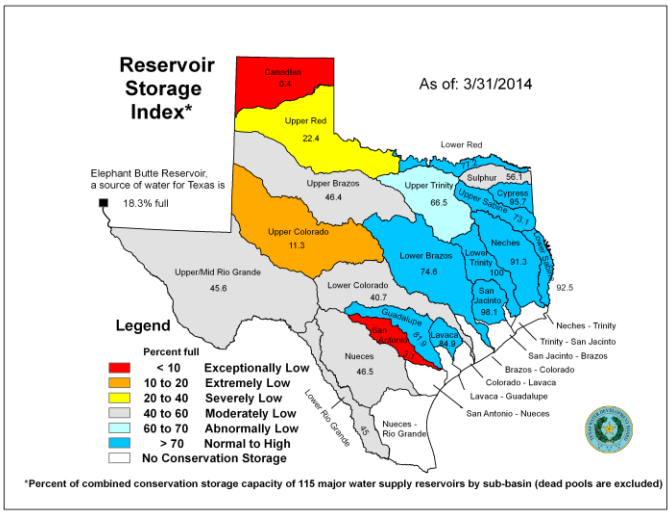












Drought Status Summary

Texas is in drought now as indicated by the Palmer Drought Severity Index.

Number of Regions In Drought Category

Drought Index	High Drought			Lower Drought		Not in Drought
	Exceptional Dry / Drought ---------- Exceptional High Fire Risk	Extreme Dry / Drought ---------- Extreme High Fire Risk	Severe Dry / Drought ---------- Very High Fire Risk	Moderate or Excessive Dry / Drought ---------- High Fire Risk	Abnormal or Mild Dry / Drought ---------- Above Average Fire Risk	Near or Above Normal Condition
PDSI (10)	N/A	0	2	5	2	1
SFI (9)	4	1	1	1	1	1
SPI (10)	N/A					
CMI (10)	N/A	0	1	0	5	4
KBDI (10)	0	0	1	6	2	1
Number of River Basins / Sub-Basins In Drought Category						
RSI (21)	2	1	2	4	2	10

Region ID	Region Name	Crop Moisture Index	Palmer Drought Severity Index	Standardized Precipitation Index	Keetch-Byram Drought Index	Reservoir Storage Index	Streamflow Index
1	High Plains	**--1.93**	**-3.92**	**N/A**	**511**	0.70	**25.60**
2	Low Rolling Plains	-1.71	-3.07	**N/A**	465	20.80	**2.50**
3	North Central	**-0.22**	**-2.18**	**N/A**	**303**	65.70	4.20
4	East Texas	-0.01	**-1.49**	**N/A**	**237**	94.20	**38.00**

5	Trans Pecos	**-1.55**	**-2.82**	**N/A**	601	45.20	4.40
6	Edwards Plateau	-1.53	**-1.84**	**N/A**	**445**	**31.80**	18.30
7	South Central	-.137	**-2.71**	**N/A**	**433**	**44.40**	13.20
8	Upper Coast	-0.47	**-2.13**	**N/A**	**387**	**88.60**	5.70
9	Southern	-3.39	**-2.56**	**N/A**	**482**	38.80	2.90
10	Lower Valley	**0.08**	**1.80**	**N/A**	**412**	No Data	No Data

Drought Index Data

The comparison of index values with last month is summarized below:

Drought Index	Index Value Improved in # Regions (Bold in table above)	Index Value Deteriorated in # Regions (Italic in table above)	Index Value Unchanged in # Regions
PDSI (10)	0	10	0
SFI (9)	1	8	0
SPI (10)	**N/A**	**N/A**	**N/A**
CMI (10)	1	9	0
KBDI (10)	0	10	0
RSI (21)	7	12	2

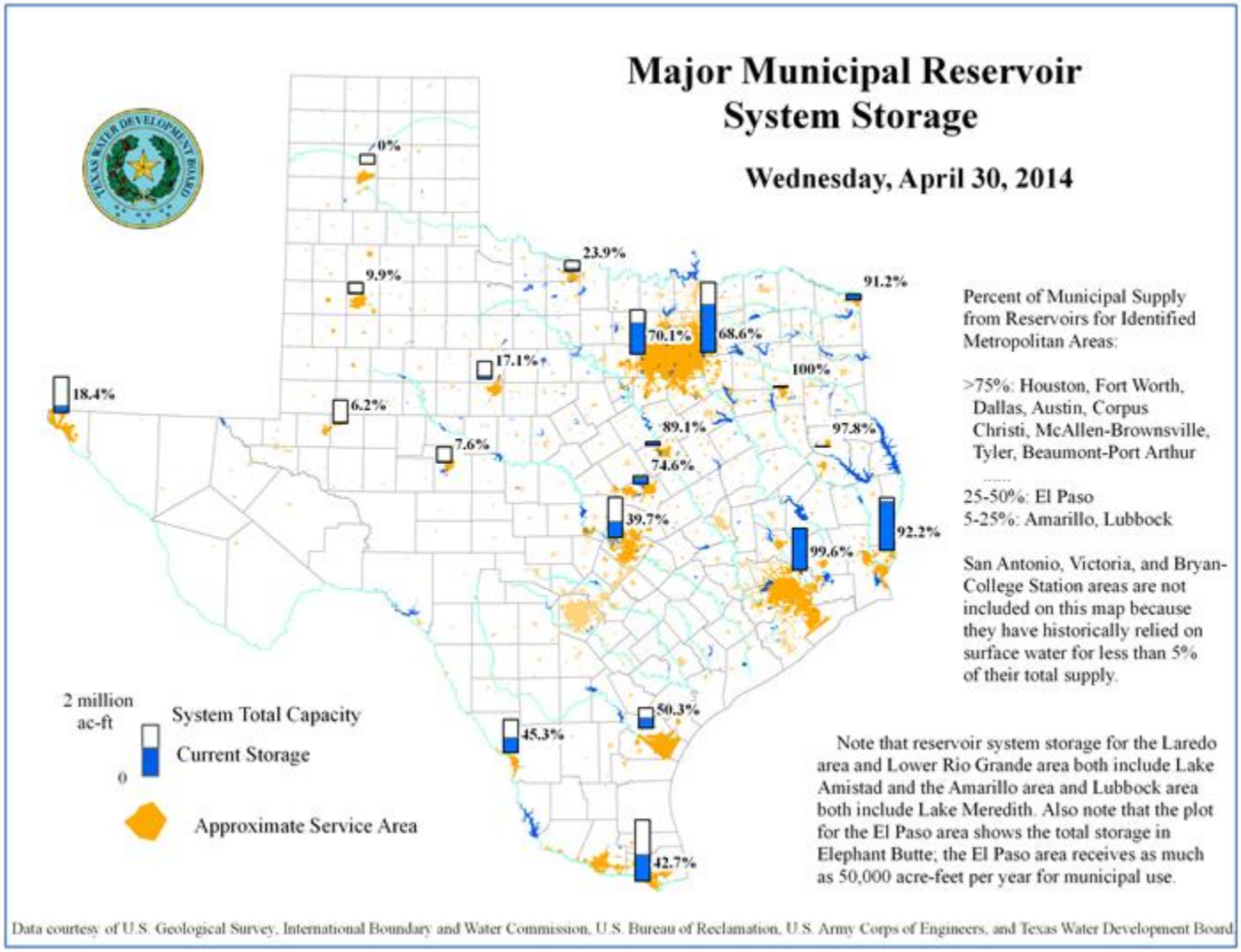
Reservoir Storage Condition

Water storage conditions are summarized below by river basins for the 114 of Texas major reservoirs at the end of the month:

- THE STATEWIDE COMBINED STORAGE WAS 64% FULL AT 20.3 MILLION ACFT IN TOTAL COMBINED STORAGE. THIS IS 96,345 ACRE-FEET MORE THAN A MONTH AGO.
- BY THE RIVER BASINS, STORAGE WAS LOWER THAN NORMAL IN 11 BASIN OR SUB-BASINS BUT NEAR OR ABOVE NORMAL IN ALL OTHER 10 BASIN OR SUB-BASINS,
- EXCEPTIONALLY LOW IN CANADIAN RIVER BASIN AND SAN ANTONIO SUB-BASINS,
- EXTREMELY LOW IN UPPER COLORADO SUB-BASIN BASIN,
- SEVERELY LOW IN UPPER RED RIVER AND LOWER COLORADO SUB-BASINS,
- MODERATELY LOW IN AND UPPER BRAZOS SUB-BASIN, AS WELL AS IN RIO GRANDE AND NUECES RIVER BASINS,
- ABNORMALLY LOW IN UPPER TRINITY SUB-BASIN AND SULPHUR BASIN,
- NEAR OR ABOVE NORMAL IN ALL OTHER 10 BASIN OR SUB-BASINS.

The elephant Butte Reservoir held 363,574 acft of water, at 18% full by the month end.

Reservoir Status for Major Metropolitan Centers



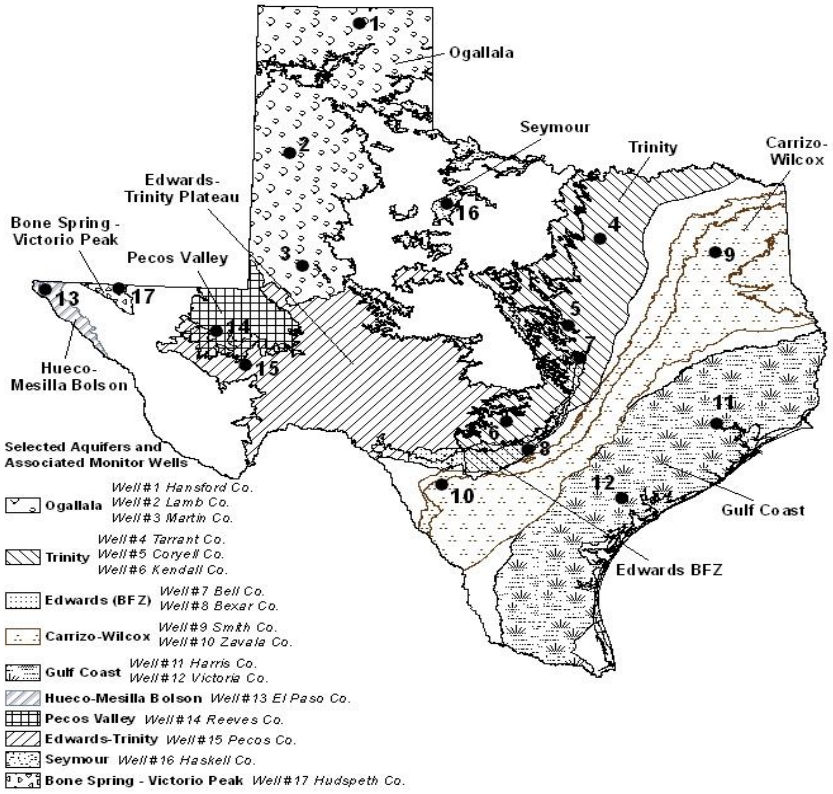
Groundwater Conditions

- WATER LEVEL MEASUREMENTS WERE AVAILABLE FROM ALL 17 KEY MONITORING WELLS IN THE STATE.
- WATER LEVELS ROSE IN FIVE OF THE MONITORING WELLS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF APRIL, RANGING FROM 0.15 FEET IN THE HASKELL COUNTY SEYMOUR AQUIFER WELL (WELL #16) TO 0.98 FEET IN THE HARRIS COUNTY GULF COAST AQUIFER WELL (WELL #11).
- WATER LEVELS DECLINED IN TWELVE MONITORING WELLS, RANGING FROM 0.05 FEET IN THE LAMB COUNTY OGALLALA AQUIFER WELL (WELL #2) TO 21.21 FEET IN THE LA SALLE COUNTY CARRIZO-WILCOX AQUIFER WELL (WELL #10).
- THE J-17 WELL IN SAN ANTONIO RECORDED A WATER LEVEL OF 97.7 FEET BELOW LAND SURFACE OR 633.3 FEET ABOVE MEAN SEA LEVEL. THIS WATER LEVEL IS 6.7 FEET BELOW THE STAGE III CRITICAL MANAGEMENT LEVEL IN THAT SEGMENT OF THE EDWARDS AQUIFER. STAGE III RESTRICTIONS WERE DECLARED BY THE EAA WHEN THE TEN-DAY AVERAGE FELL BELOW THE 640-FOOT ELEVATION, OR 91 FEET BELOW LAND SURFACE.

Monitoring Well	November	October	Month change	Year change	Historical change
(1) Hansford 0354301	155.08	154.66	-0.42	-1.4	-84.96
(2) Lamb 1053602	144.29	144.24	-0.05	-1.41	-116.14
(3) Martin 2739903	142.2	141.38	-0.82	-1	-37.31
(4) Dallas 3319101	488.52	489.22	0.7	1.31	-266.52
(5) Coryell 4035404	505.75	500.34	-5.41	-2.76	-213.75
(6) Kendall 6802609	136.27	132.75	-3.52	-4	-76.27
(7) Bell 5804816	125.62	124.63	-0.99	1.05	-2.49
(8) Bexar 6837203	97.7	90.21	-7.49	-14.7	-51.06
(9) Smith 3430907	437.34	437.56	0.22	-0.22	-71.34
(10) La Salle 7738103	489.18	467.97	-21.21	-29.19	-236.11
(11) Harris 6514409	190.13	191.11	0.98	4.1	-54.63
(12) Victoria 8017502	35.46	35.64	0.18	-1.17	-1.46
(13) El Paso 4913301	296.04	295.32	-0.72	-2.31	-64.14
(14) Reeves 4644501	154.94	152.58	-2.36	0.02	-62.85
(15) Pecos 5216802	212.43	207.55	-4.88	-1.49	34.45
(16) Haskell 2135748	48.69	48.84	0.15	-0.17	-7.36

(17) Hudspeth 4807516	**139.05**	**143.66**	**-4.2**	**0.59**	***-36.86***

Groundwater Observation Wells Location Map



6. Water Utility Status

Overall, there are **1,157** water systems that are asking their customers to restrict water use, compared with **1,140** a month ago. Of these systems, **768** are asking customers to follow a mandatory watering schedule and **389** are asking customers to follow a voluntary watering schedule. There are currently **56** PWSs that have prohibited all outside watering by their customers. A total of **1,565** water systems have reported to the TCEQ regarding their status using the online form on the TCEQ public website. Drought conditions will likely persist and/or intensify in the west central to west and the panhandle portions of the state. Drought development is likely in the far west portion of the state. Drought improvement or removal is likely in east central to east and the coastal region of the state.

7. Water Rights – Statewide

New temporary water use permit applications are being reviewed on a site-specific basis and issued if there is sufficient surplus water at the requested source. The number of applications for new water use permits and amendments to existing permits was high for the month.

The availability of unappropriated water for new water use permits continues to be limited in all river basins in the State, and the search for long-term, dependable alternate sources of water remains a high priority issue.

8. Water Rights – Lower Rio Grande / Rio Grande Watermaster (RGWM)

Current Conditions: On April 19, 2014, the U.S. combined ownership at Amistad/Falcon stood at 43.69 of normal conservation capacity, impounding 1,481,978 acre-feet, up from 32.20% (1,092,026 AF) of normal conservation a year ago at this time. Overall the system is holding 41.30% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 2,445,912 acre-feet with Amistad at 42.74% of conservation capacity, impounding 1,400,096 acre-feet and Falcon at 39.51% of conservation capacity, impounding 1,045,816 acre-feet. Mexico has 38.09% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 963,934 acre-feet at Amistad/Falcon.

Allocations: As of printing of the March, 2014 ownership report, we have allocated 130,679.4768 acre-feet to Class A & B water rights this year, which include irrigation, mining and recreation.

Storage & Loss Amistad vs. Falcon: The U.S. is currently storing approximately 895,000 acre-feet at Amistad (48.7%); and

approximately 586,000 acre-feet (37.8%) of normal conservation capacity at Falcon. Evaporation and seepage losses at Amistad as of 4/19/14 are 48,164 acre-feet. For the same period, the U.S. has lost 37,029 acre-feet at Falcon.

Releases to meet demands: In 2014, (through 4/19/14), Mexico has released 140,194 acre-feet from Amistad and 85,974 acre-feet from Falcon for Mexico needs. The U.S. has released 97,519 acre-feet from Falcon and 164,463, acre-feet from Amistad for U.S. needs. Combined with gains between Amistad and Falcon, U.S. inflows to Falcon have totaled 161,594 acre-feet. The U.S. demand in the lower Rio Grande has been met at a rate of 100% by direct Rio Grande inflows and Amistad releases this year.

Upper Rio Grande (New Mexico): Elephant Butte in New Mexico is currently storing 364,009 (17.99%) acre feet and Caballo Dam in New Mexico, downstream of Elephant Butte is storing 38,914 (17.14%) acre-feet. This water storage in part is used to meet water needs in the El Paso area.

Outlook: 44% of all accounts began 2014 at 0% water available, 27% of all accounts began 2014 with 0-50% of their usable balance and only 29% of all accounts began 2014 with 50-100% of their usable balance available. The National Weather Service continues to report that moderate to abnormally dry conditions with a few areas still under severe to extreme drought conditions are affecting parts of Rio Grande Basin counties.

9. River Basin Reports

Stream flow conditions vary widely across the state. When considering drought conditions, United State Geological Survey (USGS) streamflow data are commonly used as a metric for comparison. This report uses monthly mean river flows in cubic feet per second (cfs) to represent average monthly conditions within each river basin. The historical median flow value for the month (the discharge which is equaled or exceeded 50% of the time) is used to prevent the inclusion of high flow values that would skew the data.

Red River Basin:

Streamflow Conditions:

Site	April mean (cfs)	April historical median (cfs)
Red River near Burkburnett	69	329
Red River near De Kalb	3,531	10,900

Drought Condition: As of May 1, 98% of the Red River Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; with 79% of the basin experiencing exceptional drought conditions.

Drought Restrictions: Water rights in this area are eligible to impound or divert according to the terms of their permits.

Sulphur River Basin:

Streamflow Conditions:

Site	April mean (cfs)	April historical median (cfs)
Sulphur River near Talco	530	139

Drought Conditions: As of May 1, 41% of the Sulphur River Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; however, 0% of the basin is experiencing exceptional drought conditions.

Drought Restrictions: Water rights in this area are eligible to impound or divert according to the terms of their permits.

Cypress Creek Basin:

Streamflow Conditions:

Site	April mean (cfs)	April historical median (cfs)
Little Cypress Creek near Jefferson	640	495

Drought Conditions: As of May 1, 0% of the Cypress Creek Basin is experiencing moderate drought conditions.

Drought Restrictions: Water rights in this area are eligible to impound or divert according to the terms of their permits.

Sabine River Basin:

Streamflow Conditions:

Site	April mean (cfs)	April historical median (cfs)
Sabine River near Beckville	1,937	2,165
Sabine River near Ruliff	7,142	9,040

Drought Conditions: As of May 1, 20% of the Sabine River Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; however, 0% of the basin is experiencing exceptional drought conditions.

Drought Restrictions: Water rights in this area are eligible to impound or divert according to the terms of their permits.
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Neches River Basin:

Streamflow Conditions:

Site	April mean (cfs)	April historical median (cfs)
Angelina River near Alto	640	702
Neches River at Evadale	2,821	7,030

Drought Conditions: As of May 1, 49% of the Neches River Basin is experiencing moderate drought conditions; however, 0% of the basin is experiencing exceptional drought conditions.

Drought Restrictions: Water rights in this area are eligible to impound or divert according to the terms of their permits.

Trinity River Basin:

Streamflow Conditions:

Site	April mean (cfs)	April historical median (cfs)
Trinity River at Dallas	647	695
Trinity River near Oakwood	1,390	3,205
Trinity River at Romayor	2,054	5,350

Drought Conditions: As of May 1, 95% of the Trinity River Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; however, 0% of the basin is experiencing exceptional drought conditions.

Drought Restrictions: Water rights in this area are eligible to impound or divert according to the terms of their permits.

Brazos River Basin:

Streamflow Conditions:

Site	April mean (cfs)	April historical median (cfs)
Double Mountain Fork Brazos River near Aspermont	3.4	4
Brazos River near Glen Rose	18	326
Little River at Cameron	206	976
Navasota near Easterly	25	54
Brazos near Hempstead	807	3,945
Brazos near Rosharon	788	5,065

Drought Conditions: As of May 1, 97% of the Brazos River Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; with 17% of the basin experiencing exceptional drought conditions.

Drought Restrictions: Water rights in this area are eligible to impound or divert according to the terms of their permits.

Colorado River Basin:

Streamflow Conditions:

Site	April mean (cfs)	April historical median (cfs)
Colorado River at Ballinger	0.48	12
San Saba River at San Saba	32	94
Llano River at Llano	50	165
Pedernales River near Johnson City	3.6	92
Colorado River at Columbus	308	1,610

Drought Conditions: As of May 1, 98% of the Colorado River Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; with 7% of the basin experiencing exceptional drought conditions.

Drought Restrictions: Water rights in this area are eligible to impound or divert according to the terms of their permits; however, in the Concho Watermaster Area, the Concho Watermaster continues to monitor the streamflow conditions and modify diversion requests as needed

Guadalupe River Basin:

Streamflow Conditions:

Site	April mean (cfs)	April historical median (cfs)
Guadalupe River near Spring Branch	20	190
San Marcos River at Luling	147	276
Guadalupe River at Cuero	364	1,250
Guadalupe River at Victoria	324	1,195

Drought Conditions: As of May 1, 98% of the Guadalupe River Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; with 10% of the basin experiencing exceptional drought conditions

Drought Restrictions: Water rights in this area are eligible to impound or divert according to the terms of their permits; however, some water rights in the upper Guadalupe River Basin can only divert on a limited schedule. The South Texas Watermaster continues to monitor the streamflow conditions and modify diversion requests as needed. All temporary permits are being reviewed on a case by case basis.

San Antonio River Basin:

Streamflow Conditions:

Site	April mean (cfs)	April historical median (cfs)
San Antonio River at Falls City	154	270
Cibolo Creek at Falls City	26	31

Drought Conditions: As of May 1, 82% of the San Antonio River Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; with 3% of the basin experiencing exceptional drought conditions

Drought Restrictions: Water rights in this area are eligible to impound or divert according to the terms of their permits; however, the South Texas Watermaster continues to monitor the streamflows conditions and modify diversion requests as needed. All temporary permits are being reviewed on a case by case basis

Nueces River Basin:

Streamflow Conditions:

Site	April mean (cfs)	April historical median (cfs)
Nueces river at Tilden	0.01	3
Frio River near Derby	0	10
Atascosa River at Whitsett	0.53	11

Drought Conditions: As of May 1, 81% of the Nueces River Basin is experiencing at least moderate drought conditions; with 9% of the basin experiencing exceptional drought conditions.

Drought Restrictions: Water rights in this area are eligible to impound or divert according to the terms of their permits; however, the South Texas Watermaster continues to monitor the streamflow conditions and modify diversion requests as needed. All temporary permits are being reviewed on a case by case basis.

Statewide Rainfall Totals

April 1 - 30, 2014

City/Station	Rainfall Totals (in)
Brazos River Basin	
Lubbock	0.57
Abilene	0.61
Waco	1.76
College Station	1.23
Colorado River Basin	
Midland	0.19*
San Angelo	0.41
Austin Mabry	1.89
Austin Bergstrom	1.65
Neches River Basin	
Tyler	2.47
Lufkin	2.87
Sabine River Basin	
Longview	2.31
Trinity River Basin	
Dallas/ Fort Worth	1.74

*DATA NOT AVAILABLE

10. Agriculture

With the exception of parts of Far-west Texas, rainfall over the last month was limited to isolated showers. As whole, warm temperatures and dry, windy conditions continued to rapidly deteriorate conditions for agriculture. The prolonged drought on the High and Rolling Plains has resulted in massive damage to the wheat crop, with 65% in poor and very poor conditions and an additional 22% in fair conditions. High winds and blowing sand is a major problem for the region, with loss of soil quality due to erosion and wind damage to seedling crops such as sunflower. In addition to the damage from drought, a hard cold snap on April 13 and 14 had resulted in significant freeze injury to wheat from Lubbock south through Abilene and into the North Texas Blacklands. Many farmers who have assessed significant freeze damage are cutting the crop for hay. Insurance adjusters are busy zeroing out wheat killed by drought. An exceptionally dry and cold winter, followed by a mid-April cold snap has slowed green up and growth in forages and left soil profiles deficit of water. Most of the Plains region is going into its fourth year of drought and little is to be done with dryland fields until significant rainfall occurs.

Rains earlier in the year had brought some relief to south Texas and the Rio Grande Valley, but hot, dry, windy conditions have rapidly depleted surface soil moisture and crops and pastures are showing drought stress. Conditions in East Texas remain good for crops and pastures, but dry and warm temperatures are causing concerns.

Hay producers are experiencing a good demand as producers from drier areas of the state seek to enhance their supplies. Much of the dryland wheat crop in west Texas is being grazed or hayed as stock producers seek feed supplies. Culling of herds is picking up as fears of another dry summer motivate ranchers to reduce herds.

The following are summaries from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension district reporters for the week ending May 3, 2014:

Central: Winds and warmer temperatures dried out soils. Prior to the mid-April freeze damage, the best wheat fields were expected to produce average yields, but drought and freeze damage have reduced expectations. Rangeland was reported to be in the worst condition since 2009. Clay soils were powder dry. Corn and sorghum needed a rain soon to make. Farmers were baling oats, wheat and ryegrass for hay in expectation of the drought continuing through the summer. Horn flies were increasing in cattle herds. Stock pond water was becoming an issue.

Coastal Bend: Soil moisture was mostly short, which was a concern for many producers. Hot, dry and windy conditions severely affected row crops during the past week. There was some replanting of cotton in the northern counties because of the mid-April freeze. Pastures were declining because of lack of rain, and stock

water tanks were drying up. Producers were taking lighter calves to market early due to deteriorating range conditions.

East: The region was dry and windy, which lowered topsoil moisture. In Gregg County, demand for hay was minimal, but prices were holding firm due to shortage and continuing drought conditions. Warm-season grasses were beginning to green up in some areas. Producers were preparing hay fields by fertilizing and controlling weeds. Some producers were cutting ryegrass and clover for a first-round hay crop, making way for warm-season crop growth. Pond and creek water levels were good. Cattle were in good shape with prices holding firm. Producers were selling market-ready calves and cull cows. Replacement heifers continued to be hard to find.

Far West: The region had hot, dry and windy weather earlier in the week, with cooler temperatures later. Pecans were in the last stages of pollination. Fall onions were 50 percent developed. Cotton planting wound down, with 25 percent of the already planted crop emerged. Alfalfa had good stands. Cooler temperatures midweek caused farmers to hold off on planting sunflowers and cotton. Soil temperatures were still very low for this time of year. Approximately 70 percent of the mesquite showed freeze damage from two weeks ago, while the other 30 percent were blooming. Most cattle were still on supplemental feed.

North: Topsoil moisture across the region ranged from short to adequate. A few counties received 0.5 inch of rainfall. Titus and Van Zandt counties reported golf ball-size hail. Collin County reported that the mid-April freeze set back most corn. There were signs of leaf burn, but some of the crop recovered quickly. Cloudy weather and temperature variations were slowing hay meadow growth in Morris County. Cool-season grasses and legumes are looking good. Livestock were in good condition.

Panhandle: The week began with extremely high winds and blowing dust, followed by hot and dry weather. Some areas received isolated showers. Soil moisture was short to very short. Farmers continued preparing for spring planting. Winter wheat was in fair to very poor condition. Corn planting began, as did some cotton planting. Irrigators were active. Some fields in Ochiltree County were being adjusted for crop insurance losses already. Cattle on range continued to required supplemental feed. Ranchers who did not have wheat to graze out continued to reduce cowherd numbers.

Rolling Plains: Windy, dusty weather was the norm. With extremely dry conditions and high winds, there were only a couple of days that the sky didn't have a brown tint. Pastures continued to green up after recent showers and were expected to grow for a couple of weeks, but rain was needed for long-term improvement. Producers were replanting freeze-damaged cornfields and were cutting small grain pastures for hay. Cotton producers were holding back on planting, hoping for a little more moisture. Some ranchers in the southwest part of the district were facing their worst fear: a sellout in the near future. Not only were

farmers and ranchers hurting, but town residents were affected as water shortages continued and water usage restrictions increased.

South: The region had mild to hot days with high winds but no rain. Rangeland and pastures continued to decline. Soil moisture was short to very short in every county. In the northern part of the region, corn was in fair condition, most cotton planting was underway, and oats were in poor to good condition, depending upon the county. Corn was tasseling in some areas, and sorghum was generally in fair condition. Potato harvesting began, as well as preparations for wheat harvesting. Ranchers began purchasing hay for supplemental feeding of livestock in Atascosa County as pastures began to brown. Supplemental feeding was also being done at a steady pace in McMullen County. In the eastern part of the region, producers began harvesting wheat and were expecting fair yields. Most corn was planted and in good condition. In Kleberg and Kenedy counties, all the cotton was planted, and 10 percent had squared. Grain sorghum in those counties was planted and in fair condition. In the western part of the region, daytime and nighttime temperatures were cooler. Stock tank water levels were low on most ranches with surface water in Webb County. Ranchers there were waiting for rangeland to recover before restocking cattle and livestock. In Zapata County, daytime temperatures reached 90 degrees and cattle were grazing on brushy areas. Wildfires and grass fires remained a threat due to browning of rangeland and pastures. In that county, wheat and oat crop producers were expecting good yields. Also in that county, corn, sorghum and cotton were progressing well, and very light onion harvesting began late in the week. In the southern part of the region, high winds continued to dry soils. Cameron County producers were irrigating onions and baling hay. In Hidalgo County, the harvesting of sugarcane, citrus and vegetables continued. Starr County producers were also harvesting onions. In Willacy County, all cotton and grain sorghum was planted.

South Plains: Wind, blowing sand and no rain made area crop producers very anxious. Some were preparing to plant irrigated cotton in the next few weeks, but there was no hope for a dryland crop without significant rain soon. The region has had 29 days of blowing sand in 2014, with more forecast next week, compared to 14 days for the same period in 2013. Temperatures were still widely variable, with very warm highs one day, then dropping to near freezing the next. Hale County reported that a huge dust storm blew out sunflowers. Swisher County saw improvement in winter wheat due to heavy irrigation. Field scouting there reported immature pigweed, kochia and bindweed. Pastures were not providing enough grass to support many cattle. Pastures greened up a few weeks ago, but were currently beginning to show leaf curl and other signs of water stress. Livestock was mostly in fair to good condition with continued supplemental feeding.

Southwest: Hot, windy and dry conditions continued throughout the region with no rain in the forecast. Livestock and row crops remained in good condition. Grain sorghum and hay grazer were not widely planted due to low soil moisture. Peaches and grapes were doing fine. Peaches in high tunnels – hoop-style green houses – were close to harvest. Rangeland was very dry. Supplemental feeding of livestock and wildlife was still necessary.

West Central: The region had very dry, windy and warm conditions as the drought continued. Wildfire danger was extremely high as temperatures were expected to rise into triple digits this coming week. Wheat remained in very poor condition. Farmers were cutting small grains for hay that had been damaged by a late-season freeze. Most wheat was being grazed out. A small percentage of wheat was to be harvested for grain, but yields were expected to be very low. Limited subsoil moisture will impact cotton planting in the coming weeks. No summer annuals were planted due to dry conditions as seed was too expensive to chance that soil moisture will improve. Rangeland and pastures were holding up so far, though some fields were showing drought stress. Livestock remained in fair condition under continued supplemental feeding. Water supplies for livestock continued to decline.

Texas Crop Progress and Conditions

USDA NASS, Texas Field Office Report: Issue TX-CW 1714

Weekly summary for April 28- May 4, 2014

Top Soil Moisture Condition by District – May 4, 2014

	Percentage of Acreage					Percentage of Acreage			
District	**Very Short**	**Short**	**Adequate**	**Surplus**	**District**	**Very Short**	**Short**	**Adequate**	**Surplus**
1-N	72	25	3	0	**6**	55	30	14	1
1-S	58	38	4	0	**7**	47	37	16	0
2-N	69	25	5	1	**8-N**	25	54	21	0
2-S	56	41	9	0	**8-S**	29	40	26	5
3	35	56	9	0	**9**	10	34	53	3
4	23	39	37	1	**10-N**	36	50	14	0
5-N	0	18	65	13	**10-S**	3	83	14	0
5-S	17	37	38	8	**State**	44	38	17	1

Crop Condition by District- May 4, 2014

	Percent of Acreage					Index	
Crop						**2014**	**2013**
	Excellent	**Good**	**Fair**	**Poor**	**Very Poor**		
Wheat	1	12	23	33	31	36	36
Oat	6	27	34	22	11	57	58
Sorghum	8	28	42	16	6	64	-
Corn	4	19	67	9	1	64	63
Rice	5	36	53	4	2	71	71
Range & pasture	3	23	35	23	16	-	-

*The formula for the condition index is I= (5V+25P+60F+110E/100) where I=crop condition index and VP, P, F, G, E= the percentage of the crop rated very poor, poor, fair, good and excellent.

The Drought Preparedness Council is comprised of state agencies concerned with the effects of drought and fire on the citizens of the State of Texas.

The attached information was compiled and provided by representatives listed below. Points of contact, telephone numbers, and web site addresses are also provided.

Nim Kidd, Texas Division of Emergency Management, (512) 424-2436, fax (512) 424-2444, website: http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem

Brenner Brown, Texas Water Development Board, (512) 475-1128, fax (512) 475-2053, website: http://www.twdb.texas.gov/

Chris Loft, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, (512) 239- 4715, fax (512) 239-4770, website: http://www.tceq.state.tx.us

Steven Bednarz, Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board, (254) 773- 2250, fax (254) 773-3311, website: http://www.tsswcb.state.tx.us

Lance Williams, Texas Department of Agriculture, (512) 463-3285, fax (800) 835-2981, website: http://agr.state.tx.us

Dr. Travis Miller, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, (979) 845- 4808, fax (979) 845-0456, website: http://texasextension .tamu.edu

David Bradsby, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, (512) 912-7015, fax (512) 707-1358, website: http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us

Gilbert Jordan, Texas Department of Transportation, (512) 416-3270, fax (512) 416-2941, website: http:www.txdot.state.tx.us

Michael Dunivan, Texas A&M Forest Service, (830) 997-5426, website: http://txforestservice.tamu.edu

Priscilla Boston, Texas Department of State Health Services, (512) 801-9816, fax (512) 458- 7111, website: http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/

Tad Curtis, Office of the Governor, Economic Development & Tourism, (512) 936-0047, website: http://www.governor.state.tx.us/divisions/ecodev

David A. Van Dresar, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts, (979) 968-3135, fax (979) 968-3194, website: http://www.texasgroundwater.org/

Dr. John W. Nielsen-Gammon, Office of the State Climatologist, (979) 862-2248, fax (979) 862-4466, website: http://www.met.tamu.edu/osc/

Marisa Callan, Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, (512) 475-3964, website: http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us

Regina Chapline Erales, Public Utility Commission of Texas, (512) 936-7392, Website: www.puc.texas.gov/

Warren Lasher, Electric Reliability Council of Texas, (512)248-3011, www.ercot.com

Attachment 1
Climatic Regions